

California and Western Medicine

Owned and Published by the

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Official Organ of the California, Utah and Nevada Medical Associations

FOUR-FIFTY SUTTER, ROOM 2004, SAN FRANCISCO

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Subscription prices, \$5.00 (\$6.00 for foreign countries); single copies, 50 cents.

Volumes begin with the first of January and the first of July. Subscriptions may commence at any time.

Change of Address.—Request for change of address should give both the old and the new address. No change in any address on the mailing list will be made until such change is requested by county secretaries or by the member concerned.

Advertisements.—The journal is published on the seventh of the month. Advertising copy must be received not later than the 15th of the month preceding issue. Advertising rates will be sent on request.

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EDITORIALS

THE FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AT DEL MONTE—TO BE HELD ON APRIL 28-MAY 1, 1930

The Program of This Fifty-Ninth Annual Session.—In this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is printed the program of this year's annual session of the California Medical Association. This is the fifty-ninth year in which the California Medical Association may be said to have provided means for its members to meet in conference to discuss the various scientific and other problems of organized medicine, and through personal contacts with one another to fit themselves to return to their work with renewed strength and enthusiasm.

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Members of the California Medical Association Should Plan to Attend This Del Monte Session.—Recent annual sessions of the California Medical Association have seemingly given members of the organization who attended the meetings a more than adequate return for the time and expense involved in such attendance. This year's session at Del Monte, while lacking somewhat in the generous hospitality which is usually extended by component county units of larger size, is nevertheless in one of California's most charming settings. All who have attended annual sessions at Del Monte in the years gone by will desire to again renew their acquaintance with this region and its alluring scenery, and with our colleagues

of that district. Members who have not had that pleasure should make a special effort to attend this session, which will begin on Monday, April 28, and adjourn on Thursday, May 1.

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The Scientific, Social and Business Features of the Session.—A perusal of the scientific program as found in this issue will indicate how many are the interesting and important scientific topics which will come up for consideration and discussion, in the general and special sections. Our guest speakers are prominent colleagues from different sections of the country and our California essayists are also well known fellow practitioners.

The scenic charm and the hotel environment of Del Monte foretell also the best of fellowship, reunions and of social contacts.

What with meetings of the scientific assemblies and of scenic drives and walks and golf and dances in the way of social diversion, and of important business problems up for consideration by the House of Delegates, it may be taken for granted that the five days and their hours will flit by with amazing rapidity for all who can stay throughout the session.

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Pre-Convention Bulletin and Standing Committees.—This will be the first annual session to be held under the provisions of the revised constitution and by-laws. For the members of the House of Delegates, the *Pre-Convention Bulletin*, containing abstracts of reports of officers and standing committees, will make its first appearance. It is believed that members of the House, through this new medium, will be able to get a better orientation of the problems which will come up for their consideration.

The House of Delegates will also have its first experience with an official speaker. That plan should work out as advantageously in California as it does in the national association.

It is important for members of the standing committees to meet and organize and to discuss the problems which their respective groups are expected to investigate. The Del Monte session will make such conferences possible. The co-operation of additional colleagues, which can be secured through the appointment of two to ten advisory members to each committee, as provided in the constitution and by-laws, might likewise be one of the matters to which the members of standing committees could give consideration in their conferences.

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The Woman's Auxiliary of the California Medical Association.—The Woman's Auxiliary of the California Medical Association, which formed a tentative state organization at the last annual session at San Diego, will convene at Del Monte with at least a half dozen component county units represented. In passing, it is of interest to note that the newly formed auxiliary unit at Los Angeles, at the time of this writing reports a membership in excess of three hundred

and fifty. A leaflet compiled by order of the Council of the California Medical Association should make it easy for other county auxiliaries to come into existence in California.

It is to be remembered that these Woman's Auxiliaries are not to take up work belonging to the county medical societies, but to maintain interests and affiliations in fields and in organizations where the physician members of county medical societies do not contact, but where intelligent coöperation by members of a Woman's Auxiliary may be an additional means for promotion of the public health, through allegiance to proven standards of preventive medicine. The members of the Woman's Auxiliary in California each year will no doubt find more and more pleasure and profit in these state meetings.

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Scientific and Fellowship Contacts Go Hand in Hand.—As has been so often stated in this column, medical men need not only to know one another in their serious professional work, but also in their social and fellowship relations. Through such social contacts mutual understandings are created which make for better coöperation and more efficient end-results for organized medicine. In other words, these annual meetings make for a stronger California Medical Association and its component county units, and for higher and better standards of practice, and of greater protection to the public health. If an annual session can promote ends such as these, then the meetings of such an annual session certainly are worth attending. Every member who can possibly do so is urged to make an effort to register at this Del Monte session. The reward through such attendance will be more than ample.

MODERN HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS —THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL AS AN EXAMPLE

The Estimated Size and Cost of the New "Acute" Unit of the Los Angeles County Hospital.—In the editorial columns of the last two issues of this journal, mention was made of the new unit of the Los Angeles County Hospital which is now in course of erection and completion, and of its estimated cost, which the press has stated will vary between the stupendous amounts of ten to sixteen millions of dollars!

This new "acute unit"—so-called because intended particularly for indigent citizens suffering from acute diseases or injuries—was planned originally for some 1500 beds, but will have actual provision for some 1911 beds when completed; with possibilities, it has been stated, of accessory crowding—according to the amount of crowding—up to a capacity of 2444 beds, or even up to 3300 to 3600 beds. For the basis of proper calculation or estimate of construction cost per bed, the figure 1911 would probably be the proper one to use, since the term "cost per bed" when properly used implies somewhat definite space, equipment and service standards.

Why the Attention of California Medical Association Members Is Called to These Construction Costs.—The attention of members of the California Medical Association is being called to certain aspects of the Los Angeles County General Hospital situation for several reasons.

One, because the members of the California Medical Association have a natural interest in all efforts to provide additional hospital facilities for citizens of California; two, because this hospital building now being built at Los Angeles is probably the most expensive hospital unit thus far erected anywhere in the world; three, because its physical attractiveness and conveniences—as good or better than the great majority of public and private hospitals in the United States and Europe—may be provocative of state medicine propaganda among lay citizens; and four, what may be said to be last but not least, the danger that seems to be lurking in the present atmosphere of things, that before or after this new and very expensive hospital structure is completed and equipped, the medical profession may find itself subjected to criticism or fault-finding by tax-paying lay citizens, for presumably having been in part responsible for what undoubtedly are very high or at least unforetold or unexpected costs of construction; which costs, the airing of which seems to be looming, certain newspapers and tax-paying groups are more than apt to consider as having been extravagant and even wasteful. When taxpayers feel that public moneys have been wasted, newspapers and taxpayers alike usually look for an "official goat." Believing that there is danger that the medical profession may be looked upon as an easy mark for such a doubtful honor, and knowing that it cannot justly be held responsible for mistakes in construction expenditures, it seems proper to establish its record before the storm breaks.

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How and Why This New Unit Came Into Existence.—The writer, by virtue of over twenty years' continuous membership and service on a medical advisory board to four different hospital superintendents or medical directors of the Los Angeles County General Hospital, may be presumed to be in a position to know what were the steps preceding the present building program at Los Angeles.

To start with an initial fact or condition, the Los Angeles County Hospital, owing to the rapid growth of population in the county and because no public municipal hospitals existed, has been more or less congested for the last twenty or thirty years.

A half dozen or so years ago, at a time when Mr. Norman R. Martin was superintendent of the institution, the situation became somewhat more acute and was thoroughly discussed; the Advisory Medical Board at that time recommending to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that a bond issue of five million dollars be presented to the voters, this money to be used for the erection of a new unit or buildings for the